



DATE: August 13, 2014

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: UPDATE: UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

Background and Summary:

Chapter 70.83.050 RCW requires the State Board of Health to enact rules for screening Washington-born infants for inheritable conditions. Chapter 246-650-020 WAC lists conditions for which all newborns must be screened. Hearing screening is not included in the newborn screening rule. However, all hospitals in Washington voluntarily perform newborn hearing screening.

It has been over five years since the Board heard from the Department of Health on its continuing efforts to: (a) encourage hospitals to voluntarily implement universal newborn hearing screening and conduct surveillance and tracking of infants to ensure they are screened, (b) ensure infants at risk for hearing loss receive audiologic evaluation, and (c) make certain deaf or hard-of-hearing infants are referred for early intervention services.

Today we will have an opportunity to receive an update from Debra Doyle and Karin Neidt on the Department's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening work which will include 2012 data. Ms. Doyle is the Department's State Genetics Coordinator and Manager of the Screening and Genetics Unit that includes the Early Hearing Loss Detection, Diagnosis, and Intervention (EHDDI) program. Ms. Neidt is the EHDDI program manager.

Recommended Board Action:

None

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